

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 13, 2005. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination. Claims 1 and 8 - 27 have been amended solely as to matters of form not affecting the scope of any claim recitation. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 7 - 13 and 20 - 26 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Those claims have not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, their base claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 1 - 6, 14 - 19 and 27 were rejected solely under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0105765 A1 (Smith et al.).

Submitted herewith is a sworn translation of Applicant's priority application, Japanese Patent Application 262653/2000, filed August 31, 2000. That sworn translation is believed to support the claims in this application, and thus *Smith*, which is available as prior art only as of its filing date of March 19, 2001, is not prior art against those claims.

Moreover, even if *Smith* were available as prior art against this application, it is believed that the claims herein would still be each allowable thereover. *Smith* relates, as stated in the Office Action, to a technique that permits a user to group objects and to display only a representative member of such a group. One example of an approach for this is mentioned in the Office Action and involves marking a particular object "true", which alone of the group is displayed. Nonetheless, even if this is deemed to permit a user to have different objects displayed at different times by re-designating various objects as

“true” or as “false”, it is submitted that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in *Smith* that would actually teach or suggest changing a display sequence, or performing control to effect such change. Since each independent claim recites one or the other of these features, each is deemed to be clearly allowable over *Smith* even if that document were available as prior art.

For all these reasons, therefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

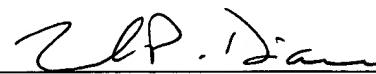
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record, regardless of whether *Smith* is available as prior art.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonard P. Diana  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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